

## **AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

### **ACTION: Notice of Solicitation - Questions and Answers dated April 7, 2003**

#### **Office of Atmospheric Programs**

#### **"Support for Local Activities to Quantify and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions"**

**(Solicitation# OAR-GPD-03-01)**

Following are formal Agency responses to questions/comments regarding the subject solicitation received prior to the established cut-off date of April 7, 2003:

**1. The RFA indicates that a total of \$185,000 is available for up to three awards. Does this mean your office is awarding a total of up to \$185K for 2003, or up to \$185K for each program area (1-3)?**

The total amount of funding available is \$185,000. This will be divided among the three projects as indicated by the funding allocations described in the RFA.

**2. Are applicants permitted to propose multi-year projects? Is there a financial advantage to proposing multi-year projects (i.e., is it easier to obtain money in subsequent years if we have submitted and planned for multiple years)?**

Applicants may propose multi-year projects in two manners:

- a.** The funds awarded under this RFA may be applied to projects that last for more than one year, however, extension of the project period will not change the total amount of funding available under this solicitation.
- b.** Description of future work for additional funding may be mentioned if it adds to the narrative of the work plan (for example, if the applicant is seeking funding for the first stage of a larger effort). However, the work funded under this RFA must have discrete outcomes and be able to stand alone as a project. Additionally, the detailed workplan or budget for work must be within the scope of work as described in the solicitation notice. Acceptance of an application that mentions future work does not imply any commitment for future funding on EPA's part.

Proposals for multi-year projects will be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria set forth in the solicitation notice. Multi-year proposals do not earn extra points in the evaluation process. The absence or presence of proposed future work will not affect the winning recipients' funding in future years.

**3. Please explain incremental funding.**

Incremental funding, as used in this RFA, refers to the process of funding multi-year projects (i.e., 18 months or more) in increments, called budget periods. The grant award initially covers only the first budget period. Toward the end of each budget period, the next budget period (if any) is funded by addition of funds, subject to availability, without further competition.

**4. How will potential funding for subsequent years be allocated? Will EPA issue a new RFA? Does an entity need to be an awardee under the current RFA to be eligible to receive funding in subsequent years? Will subsequent funding be competed or will it be under a sole source mechanism?**

Based upon satisfactory performance and availability of future funds, recipients may be eligible for additional funding, awarded noncompetitively, to continue work described in their proposals for future years. Future funding is not guaranteed. Unsuccessful applicants for funding under this competition are eligible to compete

for future funding. EPA may elect to compete some or all of any future funding for this project to support climate change mitigation at the local level.

**5. The solicitation states, "the estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation is September 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004." This equals 13 months. Please verify that this project period is correct.**

The project period stated in the RFA is an estimate. The actual project period will be established at the time of award. Applicants may propose a longer or shorter project period, as necessary, for completion.

**6. Are local governments eligible under this RFA?**

Yes.

**7. Is this solicitation seeking to support only direct work with public officials or would community groups also qualify?**

Community-based and/or citizens groups working with, or in support of, local governments that have committed to local climate action are also eligible for the award.